

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Interactive Dialogue, Monday 28 September 2009-09-28

STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND

Thank you Mr. President.

We thank the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples for his comprehensive annual report. We note with interest his discussion on the relationship between his office and other UN bodies that carry out work on indigenous rights, as well as on the duty to consult with indigenous peoples on matters affecting them. Our questions to the special rapporteur focus on these two areas.

Mr. Anaya,

New Zealand supports the recommendation contained in your report on strengthening efforts to improve coordination among the three mechanisms covering indigenous rights issues: that is: your office, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In particular we support your work to reduce duplication and increase complementarity between these mechanisms.

In this regard, we would:

- be interested in your comments on whether your attendance at the annual meetings of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism has provided a constructive and productive means for the specific concerns of indigenous peoples to be heard in these forums.

- we would also welcome your comments on additional initiatives that might allow these three mechanisms to work more effectively in relation to each other.

Mr. Anaya,

New Zealand also notes with particular interest your discussion of the duty to consult. In light of the comments in paragraph 43 of your report, we are interested to learn what further examples you could offer of the sorts of decisions you see as affecting indigenous peoples in ways not felt by others in a multicultural society.

Thank you Special Rapporteur, and thank you Mr President.